

**California Conservation Corps
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CCC ADDS CREWS TO HELP WITH FIRE RECOVERY WORK

The California Conservation Corps will expand its fire recovery work in Southern California next week, with its efforts soon to be 20 crews strong.

The CCC crews, comprised of nearly 250 corpsmembers, have been dispatched from as far away as Del Norte and Siskiyou counties. They will spend the next few weeks tackling debris cleanup, erosion control measures, sandbagging and other recovery efforts in San Diego and San Bernardino counties.

Eighteen of the crews will be assigned to San Diego County. Over the past few weeks, about a dozen crews have been assisting San Diego Gas & Electric, the U.S. Forest Service, California State Parks, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the County of San Diego. These crews and the new arrivals will continue those efforts and add new work for the City of San Diego in Scripps Ranch and other areas burned in the Cedar Fire.

In San Bernardino County, two crews are helping the U.S. Forest Service and California State Parks, working at Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area and other sites impacted by the Old Fire. Recent CCC recovery efforts have also been provided in Ventura County, aiding the communities of Simi Valley and Fillmore.

CCC State Director Wes Pratt commended the corpsmembers' efforts.

"These young men and women will work long days doing their part to help in the healing process," Pratt said. "They're trained for this kind of work and are pleased to be

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able to give something back to the citizens affected by the fires," Pratt said.

More than 500 corpsmembers were dispatched to the Cedar, Paradise, Old, Grand Prix, Piru and other Southern California fires in October, providing both frontline attack and logistical support. Returning to the fire sites for recovery and rehabilitation work is something the CCC has also done on many occasions, including after the 1991 Oakland Hills Fire and the 1993 Laguna and Malibu fires.

The California Conservation Corps is a state agency hiring young men and women between the ages of 18 and 23 for a year of natural resource work and emergency response. Since 1976, corpsmembers have provided more than seven million hours of disaster assistance following fires, floods, earthquakes and oil spills.

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